

## **Information Services Board Presentation on the Department of Licensing Biometrics Project**

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### **Presenter**

Fred Stephens, Director

Bill Kehoe, Chief Information Officer

### **Purpose of Appearance**

The Department of Licensing (DOL) is seeking approval of their investment plan to implement a voluntary biometric matching system for driver's licenses and identification cards. Biometric facial matching will be accomplished through a sole source contract amendment with the agency's current drivers license system vendor, Digimarc ID Systems LLC.

SSB 5412 also states "This project requires a full review by the Information Services Board using the criteria for projects with the highest visibility and risk." Therefore, this project will be treated in the same manner as a project that had been assessed as a Level 3 requiring ISB approval and oversight.

### **Previous ISB Appearance**

October 18, 2004: DOL presented this project to the ISB Core Systems Committee. DOL reviewed the requirements of SSB5412, the selection of the biometric technology, DOL's solution, the system flow, the project approach, and the project costs. The estimated costs are through the 2007-2009 Biennium are \$1,663,768.

### **Staff Recommendation to the Board**

ISB staff recommend approval of DOL's request.

### **Staff Recommendation to the Agency**

ISB staff recommend that the director of DOL's project office provide internal quality assurance oversight for this project.

### **Background**

During the 2004 legislative session, the third substitute Senate Bill 5412 passed, finding that most common types of identity theft and other fraudulent activity are accomplished by obtaining a fraudulently issued driver's license or identification card. The bill requires that by January 1, 2006, DOL implement a voluntary biometric matching system to verify the identity of an applicant for a renewal or duplicate driver's license or identification card.

DOL plans to contract for the services to develop software to implement a biometric matching system that will reduce and prevent identity theft and other fraud associated with the issuance of driver's licenses and identification cards. This investment will implement software capable of biometric facial matching recognition. This technology will be used to confirm the identity of an applicant during the driver's license or identification card renewal process by comparing their facial features to those on record in the State's database of driver license images. This is intended to be a one-to-one comparison versus a one-to-many. Facial recognition tools are increasingly being used by motor vehicle and law enforcement agencies to combat identification fraud and related criminal activities.

This investment plan assumes that DOL will develop a contract amendment with Digimarc, the current vendor of the current license issuance application. Digimarc has the expertise to create, integrate and implement a biometric identity matching system. This will ensure the expertise that DOL needs to develop the required biometric matching system and that the new system will be successfully integrated with DOL's existing applications and service processes.